

Virginia Rugby Union  
Annual General Meeting  
February 6, 2005

Meeting was called to order by Kris Kabza, President, 10:13 am

Seven (7) of twelve (12) Executive Committee (EC) members were present<sup>1</sup>.

EC members absent:

Greg Markham (Secretary)<sup>1</sup>  
Tony Ferguson (Men's Coordinator)  
Marsha Durocher (Women's Coordinator)  
Julie Comer (Collegiate Women's Coordinator)  
Noel Lowenson (Youth Coordinator)

Roll Call of Union Member Clubs was taken. A quorum existed, consisting of Twenty-five (25) of thirty-nine (39) clubs being represented<sup>2</sup>.

Union Member Clubs Absent:

Blacksburg  
Charlotte  
Raleigh Vipers  
Roanoke  
Blackwater Women<sup>2</sup>  
Norfolk Storm  
Raleigh Venom  
Christopher Newport University  
Hampden-Sydney College<sup>2</sup>  
James Madison University  
Virginia Tech (men)  
Longwood (women)  
University of Virginia (women)  
Virginia Tech (women)

Kris Kabza (President) presented the President's Report. Floor was opened for questions:

- Do clubs have to be CIPP registered before individuals can CIPP register to this club?  
*Answer was tabled until the USA/MARFU Representative's Report*

Shannon Plum (Vice President) presented the Vice President's Report. Floor was opened for questions.

The Secretary's Report was tabled pending expected arrival of VRU Secretary.

Bill Lucas (Treasurer) presented the Treasurer's Report. Several teams received invoices pointing out delinquencies. Mr. Lucas reminded the delinquent clubs that non-payment of dues was grounds for suspension. Delinquent clubs were asked to rectify their situation with the VRU Treasurer immediately. The floor was opened for other questions.

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<sup>1</sup> Greg Markham, VRU Secretary, arrived late, making eight (8) of twelve (12) EC members present.

<sup>2</sup> Representatives of Hampden-Sydney and Blackwater Women arrived late, making a total of twenty-seven (27) of thirty-nine (39) clubs represented.

*(minutes graciously kept by Shannon Plum, Vice President to this point, where Greg Markham, Secretary, assumed his duties upon arrival)*

Arrival of the Hampden-Sydney Representative and Blackwater Women Representative was noted.

The VRU budget was presented to the BOD, and floor was opened for question and answer.

- Jim Collum (Blackwater Men): What other potential sources of funding besides member dues?  
*Mr. Kabza mentioned MARFU and VRU discussions of sponsorships*
- Discussion by several concerning 501.C(3) status of clubs

A motion to execute the 2005 budget as presented was made and seconded. Motion passed by majority vote.

Greg Markham (Secretary) presented the Secretary's Report. The floor was opened for questions:

- Carl Schmitt (Collegiate Men's Coordinator): Have updates sent in the last month been received?  
*Yes, received but not posted due to technical difficulties*

David Chapman (USA/MARFU Representative) presented the Representative's Report. The floor was opened for questioning:

- Greg Markham (Secretary): Clarification of April 15 rule and effects on league matches  
*April 15 for USA championship structure, no effect on fall league matches*
- Discussion ensued concerning the online CIPP registration procedure. The online procedure still has a few "bugs." Mr. Schmitt (Collegiate Men) suggested a procedure for dealing with the new system.

Kris Kabza (President) presented the Men's Club Coordinator's Report. Floor was opened for questioning.

- Greg Markham (Secretary): Comment on the success of Charlotte as a new VRU member in Division I.
- Matt Weir (Newport News): Suggestions for successful recruiting strategies.

Kris Kabza (President) distributed copies of the Women's Club Coordinator's Report to the Women's Club Representatives, and a few other interested parties. The floor was opened for questions.

Carl Schmitt (Collegiate Men's Coordinator) presented the Collegiate Men's Report.

- Mr. Schmitt stated that Christopher Newport University would be suspended for the spring. Mr. Schmitt clarified that the suspension was not due to delinquencies and other apparent problems, but because CNU personnel have not been in contact with the Coordinator for some time, and do not seem to be addressing problems. Matt Weir (Newport News) asked to speak with Mr. Schmitt aside to discuss the CNU situation.
- Mr. Schmitt presented the new format for the Collegiate Men's Brackets at Ed and Sandy Lee. Mr. Kabza stated that the Collegiate Women's Representatives should enter any discussion, as their division will operate similarly. Discussion ensued. The Radford University (Men) Representative expressed a desire to not restructure, as he felt this would "punish" his club. More discussion ensued, both pro and con. Mr. Schmitt called for a roll-call survey (non-binding) of the collegiate clubs. Results were:

Agree with restructuring: Hampden-Sydney College, Longwood University (Men), Mary Washington University (Men), Old Dominion University (Men), University of Richmond (Men), University of Virginia (Men), Virginia Commonwealth University (Men), Virginia Military Institute,

Washington & Lee University, William and Mary (Men), James Madison University (Women), Mary Washington University (Women), Radford University (Women), University of Richmond (Women), Virginia Commonwealth University (Women), William and Mary (Women),  
Disagree with restructuring: Radford University (Men)

The issue was determined as resolved for the 2005 Ed and Sandy Lee Cup, with no need for the EC to revisit the issue.

Mr. Schmitt discussed the planned course for the All-Star program.

Kris Kabza (President) presented the Collegiate Women's Report. Restructuring at Ed and Sandy Lee was the primary topic, and had been covered during the Collegiate Men's discussion.

Kris Kabza (President) discussed the open position of Youth Coordinator. The floor was opened for discussion.

- James River: Youth program in Hanover is off to a strong start.
- Virginia Beach: Is there a packet or application for youth program.
- *Yes, available at the USA Rugby website; both lesson plans and complete program plan*
- Virginia (Sr. Men): Youth program will almost always immediately qualify as a 501.C(3) program.

George Durocher (Disciplinary Chair) distributed the Disciplinary Chair's Report. Yellow Card incidents are up, but probably more due to better reporting. Two red cards were given in 2004. George is concerned about repeat offenders, which weren't noticed at this point.

Jeff Anderson (Newsletter and RSV Representative) presented the RSV report.

- Very delinquent teams in VRU dues (Blackwater Women, CNU Men, VCU Men) would not be eligible for referees until the Treasurer says these clubs are back in good standing with the Union.
- Late teams with respect to RSV fees will also be denied referees.
- Moral: Pay your bills.
- Cary Kennedy (William and Mary Men): Assignment of referees?  
*Referee preference, then uncovered matches picked up throughout season catch-as-catch-can.*
- Cary Kennedy (William and Mary Men): Focus good referees on colleges?  
*Many referees cover all levels of play without focusing on one particular level.*
- Carl Schmitt (Collegiate Men): Shortage of referees is one of the Unions major problems
- Discussion of referee training, dropout rate, and where referees come from (primarily Sr. Men)
- UVA (Men): Concern about uniformity of enforcement of rules  
*Discussion ensued concerning the RSV internal addressing of this issue (RSV meetings and newsgroups), and information flow-down from USA rugby.*
- David Chapman (USA Rep): Let RSV President know if there is a problem with a particular referee. Guidelines may be different from the law. Instruction before game to clarify. "Play the referee."
- Carl Schmitt (Collegiate Men): Yellow Cards are being used more and more to control game and "team" infringements
- Kris Kabza (President): Comment that coverage in the VRU (~90%) is MUCH better than in PRU or EPRU.
- Jeff Anderson (RSV Rep): Enumerated Collegiate Men Coverage in 2004 >93% while cancellation rate by clubs is >30%
- Kris Kabza (President): Clarified that the VRU and RSV are separate entities and that dues to the VRU do not cover RSV fees and vice-versa.

>> A Fifteen (15) minute recess was called by Kris Kabza (President) <<

Kris Kabza (President) called for bids for the Ed and Sandy Lee Tournament. Submitting bids: Roanoke, James River (Men), Blackwater (Men). James River and Blackwater representatives stated they could accommodate the new Collegiate Men and Collegiate Women structure without addition time needed for proposal revision. The James River representative asked for an expedited decision due to the twice-postponed date of the AGM. Mr. Kabza agreed to do so.

Bill Lucas (Treasurer) presented the VRU Sportsmanship awards as follows:

Club Men: Newport News  
Collegiate Men: Radford  
Club/Collegiate Women: Raleigh Venom

Kris Kabza (President) presented league championship awards for Club Men, Club Women, and Collegiate Women. Carl Schmitt (Collegiate Men) presented the league championship awards for the Collegiate Men:

Collegiate Women Div I: (1) UVa	(2) JMU
Collegiate Women Div II: (1) UMW	(2) W&M
Collegiate Men Div I: (1) UVa	(2) Va Tech
Collegiate Men Div II: (1) Radford	(2) VMI
Collegiate Men Div III: (1) Longwood	(2) W&M
Women: (1) Blue Ridge	(2) Raleigh Venom
Club Men Div II: (1) Raleigh Vipers	(2) Norfolk Blues
Club Men Div III: (1) James River	(2) Newport News

No clubs petitioned for entry into the Union.

New Business:

Improper Match Cancellation. Mr. Kabza clarified that the issue was not up for resolution, but only that he wished to hear opinions from the Union so the EC would have direction for addressing the problem. Discussion centered on guidelines for definition of improper and whether the "triggering" for an investigation by the Union should be by grievance or automatic. After lengthy discussion, the matter was tabled.

Officer Elections were conducted.

*President:*

Kris Kabza was nominated and seconded as President. Mr. Kabza accepted nomination. George Durocher was nominated and seconded as President. Mr. Durocher declined nomination. No other nominees were presented. Mr. Kabza was elected by acclamation.

*Vice President:*

Shannon Plum was nominated and seconded. Ms. Plum accepted nomination. No other nominees were presented. Ms. Plum was elected by acclamation.

*Secretary:*

Greg Markham was nominated and seconded. Mr. Markham accepted nomination.  
No other nominees were presented.  
Mr. Markham was elected by acclamation.

*Treasurer:*

Bill Lucas was nominated and seconded. Mr. Lucas accepted nomination.  
No other nominees were presented.  
Mr. Lucas was elected by acclamation.

*USA/MARFU Representative:*

David Chapman was nominated and seconded. Mr. Chapman accepted nomination.  
No other nominees were presented.  
Mr. Chapman was elected by acclamation.

*Men's Club Coordinator:*

David Yancey (Newport News) was nominated and seconded. Mr. Yancey accepted nomination by proxy.  
George Durocher was nominated and seconded. Mr. Durocher accepted nomination.  
Mr. Yancey's nominator gave recommendation for Mr. Yancey.  
Mr. Durocher gave his platform.  
Vote was taken, Mr. Yancey was elected by majority vote.

*Women's Club Coordinator:*

Margy (Dessypris) Thomas (James River) was nominated and seconded. Ms. Thomas accepted nomination by proxy.  
No other nominees were presented.  
Ms. Thomas was elected by acclamation.

*Collegiate Men's Coordinator:*

Carl Schmitt was nominated and seconded. Mr. Schmitt accepted nomination.  
No other nominees were presented.  
Mr. Schmitt was elected by acclamation.

*Collegiate Women's Coordinator:*

Julie Comer was nominated and seconded. Ms. Comer accepted nomination by proxy.  
No other nominees were presented.  
Ms. Comer was elected by acclamation.

*Youth Coordinator:*

Mr. Schmitt suggested leaving position open until reports of successful youth programs came in.  
Mr. Markham suggested accepting nominations and having an election between presented candidates and leaving position open.  
No nominees were presented.  
Position is left open.

*Disciplinary Chair:*

George Durocher was nominated and seconded. Mr. Durocher accepted nomination.  
No other nominees were presented.  
Mr. Durocher was elected by acclamation.

*Newsletter Editor:*

Jeff Anderson was nominated and seconded. Mr. Anderson accepted nomination.  
No other nominees were presented  
Mr. Anderson was elected by acclamation.

*MARFU At-Large Representative:*

Carl Schmitt offered to step down as he is a MARFU officer and stepping down would give the VRU an additional vote at MARFU.

Shannon Plum was nominated and seconded. Ms. Plum accepted nomination.

No other nominees were presented.

Ms. Plum was elected by acclamation.

Motion to Adjourn was seconded. Meeting was Adjourned at 1:25pm